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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/827,233	04/05/2001	Cary Lee Bates	RSW920010047US1	7213
26502	7590	08/10/2004	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION IPLAW IQ0A/40-3 1701 NORTH STREET ENDICOTT, NY 13760			MAURO JR, THOMAS J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2143	

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/827,233	Applicant(s) BATES ET AL.	
	Examiner Thomas J. Mauro Jr.	Art Unit 2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20010405.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-16 are pending and are presented for examination. A formal action on the merits of claims 1-16 follows.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 12-15 are objected to because of the following informalities: Each of these claims refers back to "The method of claim 11 ...". Claim 11 is a programmable software claim not a method claim. Please correct claims 12-15 to indicate the reference to the programmable software claim of claim 11. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer et al. (US 2002/0143871) in view of Leak et al. (U.S. 6,182,072).

Regarding claim 1, Meyer teaches a method for providing email that enables a recipient of the email to navigate readily through a set of web pages associated with the email, comprising the acts of:

composing an email to be sent from an originator to a recipient [Meyer -- **Figures 1 and 7A and page 2 paragraph [0043] – E-mail is previously composed having a header and a body which is intended for a recipient**];

in response to input of the originator, generating a web page navigation that includes a plurality of uniform resource locators and associating the navigation with the email [Meyer -- **Figures 1 and 7A, page 2 paragraphs [0038] and [0043] and page 4 paragraphs [0082-0083] – After composing message, a meta-content index is generated which includes a plurality of uniform resource locators (URLs) which are contained within the email message and/or any attachments. The index and original message are combined into an enhanced document**]; and

sending the email and the navigation to the recipient [Meyer -- **Figures 1 and 7A and page 2 paragraph [0043] – The enhanced document, i.e. email containing meta-content index, is sent to the recipient(s)**].

Meyer fails to explicitly teach a preferred viewing order in which the web pages associated with the URLs are to be viewed.

Leak, however, discloses a method for generating tours of world wide web sites which provides information indicating the sequence or preferred order of display of web pages, either implicitly (order in which URLs are listed) or explicitly, by adding information to the list [Leak -- **Col. 7 lines 32-41 and Col. 8 lines 14-26**].

Both Meyer and Leak are concerned with providing a listing of URLs for a recipient to view the corresponding web pages.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

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was made to incorporate the preferred viewing order in which web pages associated with URLs are to be viewed, as taught by Leak into the invention of Meyer, in order to provide a mechanism to guide and ensure the user views a set of web pages in a specific order based upon the originator's desired idea or plan.

Regarding claim 9, Meyer teaches a programmable media containing programmable software for providing email that guides a recipient through a set of web pages [**Meyer -- Page 3 paragraphs [0047-0060] -- Implemented in a computer system including having computer programs stored in a memory**]. The remaining limitations in claim 9 correspond to the method claimed in claim 1. They have similar limitations; thus claim 9 is rejected under the same rationale.

5. Claims 2-3 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer et al. (US 2002/0143871) in view of Marpe et al. (U.S. 6,671,692).

Regarding claim 2, Meyer teaches a method for guiding a recipient of an email readily through a set of web pages associated with the email, comprising the acts of:

receiving an email [**Meyer -- Figure 7A and pages 7-8 paragraphs [0137-0139] -- Recipient receives enhanced document email from sender in an HTML format containing web elements**];

receiving a webpage navigation [Meyer -- **Figure 7A, page 2 paragraph [0038], page 3 paragraph [0063] and page 4 paragraph [0083] – Meta-content index section contains a list of URLs, i.e. web page navigation**]; and

passing the navigation to a browser [Meyer -- **Figure 7A and page 2 paragraph [0038] – Once URLs are clicked, they inherently transfer the navigation, i.e. URL, to the browser to display the webpage**].

Meyer fails to teach displaying a preferred viewing order in which the web pages identified by the navigation are to be viewed, and wherein the preferred viewing order is included in the navigation.

Marpe, however, discloses a method for facilitating the navigation of data on a webpage by displaying by the browser a preferred viewing order by use of a navigation chevron in which web pages are identified in the order in which they are to be viewed within the chevron [Marpe -- **Col. 1 lines 37-45, Col. 13 lines 15-32 and Col. 14 lines 37-57 (HTML code)**].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the displaying of a preferred viewing order by a browser in which the web pages are identified within the navigation chevron, as taught by Marpe, into the meta-content index of Meyer, in order to provide a navigation arrangement which utilizes a progression of ideas or phases as the designer had intended [Marpe -- **Col. 1 lines 21-26 and Col. 13 lines 34-35**].

Regarding claim 3, Meyer teaches a method for providing email that guides a recipient readily through a set of associated web pages, comprising the acts of:

composing an email to be sent from an originator to a recipient [Meyer -- **Figures 1 and 7A and page 2 paragraph [0043] – E-mail is previously composed having a header and a body which is intended for a recipient**];

in response to input of the originator, generating a web page navigation that includes a plurality of uniform resource locators [Meyer -- **Figures 1 and 7A, page 2 paragraphs [0038] and [0043] and page 4 paragraphs [0082-0083] – After composing message, a meta-content index is generated which includes a plurality of uniform resource locators (URLs) which are contained within the email message and/or any attachments. The index and original message are combined into an enhanced document**];

sending the email and the web page navigation to the recipient [Meyer -- **Figures 1 and 7A and page 2 paragraph [0043] – The enhanced document, i.e. email containing meta-content index, is sent to the recipient(s)**]; and

passing the web page navigation to a browser [Meyer -- **Figure 7A and page 2 paragraph [0038] – Once URLs are clicked, they inherently transfer the navigation, i.e. URL, to the browser to display the webpage**].

Meyer fails to explicitly teach a preferred viewing order in which the web pages are to be viewed, along with displaying by the browser an indication of the preferred viewing order.

Marpe, however, discloses a method for facilitating the navigation of data on a webpage by displaying by the browser a preferred viewing order by use of a navigation chevron in which web pages are identified in the order in which they are to be viewed within the chevron [Marpe -- **Col. 1 lines 37-45, Col. 13 lines 15-32 and Col. 14 lines 37-57 (HTML code)**].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

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to incorporate the displaying of a preferred viewing order by a browser in which the web pages are identified within the navigation chevron, as taught by Marpe, into the meta-content index of Meyer, in order to provide a navigation arrangement which utilizes a progression of ideas or phases as the designer had intended [**Marpe -- Col. 1 lines 21-26 and Col. 13 lines 34-35**].

Regarding claim 10, Meyer teaches a programmable media containing programmable software for providing email that guides a recipient through a set of web pages [**Meyer -- Page 3 paragraphs [0047-0060] -- Implemented in a computer system including having computer programs stored in a memory**]. The remaining limitations in claim 10 correspond to the method claimed in claim 2. They have similar limitations; thus claim 10 is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 11, Meyer teaches a programmable media containing programmable software for providing email that guides a recipient through a set of web pages [**Meyer -- Page 3 paragraphs [0047-0060] -- Implemented in a computer system including having computer programs stored in a memory**]. The remaining limitations in claim 11 correspond to the method claimed in claim 3. They have similar limitations; thus claim 11 is rejected under the same rationale.

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6. Claims 4-7 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer et al. (US 2002/0143871) and Marpe et al. (U.S. 6,671,692), as applied to claims 3 and 11 above respectively, in view of Komuro (US 2002/0186239).

Regarding claim 4, Meyer-Marpe teach the invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 3 above, but fail to explicitly teach using a color to indicated a link's preferred viewing order.

Komuro, however, discloses a system for indicating the degree of importance of a link by changing the color to thereby direct users attention to those links first, thereby indicating that those links should be viewed first, i.e. because they are most important, thus indicating a preferred viewing order [Komuro -- **Figure 2, page 2 paragraph [0035], page 3 paragraph [0039] and page 4 paragraph [0052]**].

Both Meyer-Marpe and Komuro are concerned with focusing user's attention to links in a preferred order, i.e. order of importance.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the link color indication, as taught by Komuro into the invention of Meyer-Marpe, in order to provide a visible mark to show the degree of importance of a link [Komuro -- **page 1 paragraph [0009]**], thus providing a form of a preferred viewing order as users should view those links with greatest importance first.

Regarding claim 5, Meyer-Marpe-Komuro teach the invention substantially as claimed, including wherein the indication of the preferred viewing order is provide by images, i.e. icons

[Komuro -- Figure 2, page 2 paragraph [0035], page 3 paragraph [0039] and page 4 paragraph [0052] – Marks for degree of importance include images, i.e. icons].

Regarding claim 6, Meyer-Marpe-Komuro teach the invention substantially as claimed, including wherein the indication of the preferred viewing order is provided by font characteristics **[Komuro -- Figure 2, page 2 paragraph [0035], page 3 paragraph [0039] and page 4 paragraph [0052] – Marks for degree of importance include color, i.e. a font characteristic].**

Regarding claim 7, Meyer-Marpe-Komuro teach the invention substantially as claimed, including wherein the indication of the preferred viewing order is provided by forward and backward controls **[Marpe -- Col. 48 lines 30-44 – “Back”, i.e. backward and “next”, i.e. forward, navigation buttons display items which have just been viewed (back) and items which are next in line to be viewed (forward)].**

Regarding claims 12-15, these are programmable software claims corresponding to the methods claimed in claims 4-7 above. They have similar limitations; therefore, claims 12-15 are rejected under the same rationale.

7. Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer et al. (US 2002/0143871) in view of Komuro (US 2002/0186239).

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Regarding claim 8, Meyer teaches a method for providing email that guides a recipient readily through a set of associated web pages, comprising the acts of:

composing an email to be sent from an originator to a recipient [**Meyer -- Figures 1 and 7A and page 2 paragraph [0043] – E-mail is previously composed having a header and a body which is intended for a recipient**];

in response to input of the originator generating a navigation that includes:

a plurality of uniform resource locators that identify web pages to be viewed by the recipient [**Meyer -- Figures 1 and 7A, page 2 paragraphs [0038] and [0043] and page 4 paragraphs [0082-0083] – After composing message, a meta-content index is generated which includes a plurality of uniform resource locators (URLs) which are contained within the email message and/or any attachments. The index and original message are combined into an enhanced document**]; and

sending the email and the navigation to the recipient [**Meyer -- Figures 1 and 7A and page 2 paragraph [0043] – The enhanced document, i.e. email containing meta-content index, is sent to the recipient(s)**].

Meyer fails to explicitly teach having a color associated with each of the URLs according to a color code to indicate a preferred viewing order in which the web pages are to be viewed by the recipient.

Komuro, however, discloses a system for indicating the degree of importance of a link by changing the color to thereby direct users attention to those links first, thereby indicating that

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those links should be viewed first, i.e. because they are most important, thus indicating a preferred viewing order [**Komuro -- Figure 2, page 2 paragraph [0035], page 3 paragraph [0039] and page 4 paragraph [0052]**]. This implicitly provides that obviously a color code exists in order to differentiate a link of one color which indicates a lesser degree of importance to a link with another color indicating a higher degree of importance.

Both Meyer-Marpe and Komuro are concerned with focusing user's attention to links in a preferred order.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the link color indication, as taught by Komuro into the invention of Meyer-Marpe, in order to provide a visible mark to show the degree of importance of a link [**Komuro -- page 1 paragraph [0009]**], thus providing a form of a preferred viewing order as users should view those links with greatest importance first.

Regarding claim 16, Meyer teaches a programmable media containing programmable software for providing email that guides a recipient through a set of web pages [**Meyer -- Page 3 paragraphs [0047-0060] -- Implemented in a computer system including having computer programs stored in a memory**]. The remaining limitations in claim 16 correspond to the method claimed in claim 8. They have similar limitations; thus claim 16 is rejected under the same rationale.

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Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


- Richardson et al. (U.S. 5,809,247) discloses a method for guided touring of websites programmed onto a web server.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Mauro Jr. whose telephone number is 703-605-1234. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 703-308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJM
August 4, 2004


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